

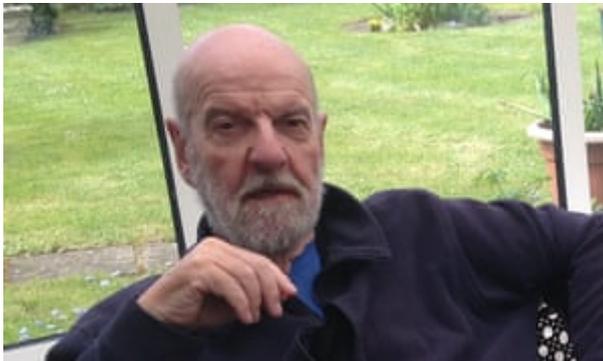
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jan/20/bob-sutcliffe-obituary>

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Bob Sutcliffe in 2018. He loved Wagner and while in Nicaragua hosted a weekly radio show devoted to opera

My friend Bob Sutcliffe, who has died aged 80, was an economist whose book, *British Capitalism, Workers and the Profits Squeeze* (1972), co-authored with [Andrew Glyn](#), was much read by socialist economists in the 1970s, but also moved beyond those circles to have an impact on wider public debate.

However, most of his work concentrated on the economies of low-income countries, the impact of imperialism and the great economic inequalities in and between nations.

Bob was born in Stourport, Worcestershire, to Barbara (nee Little) and her husband, Gordon, a company director. After attending Buxton college in Derbyshire and then graduating from Worcester College, Oxford, he spent two years in graduate school at [Harvard University](#) before returning to Britain to become a fellow at Jesus College, Oxford, where he wrote his first book, *Industry and Underdevelopment* (1971).

He left Oxford in the early 1970s to work on various international assignments for UN sub-agencies, including a stint in Cuba with the Food and Agriculture Organisation. In the late 70s he became a lecturer in economics at Kingston University in south-west London, and his publications while working there included *Hard Times: The World Economy in Turmoil* (Arguments for Socialism), published in 1983, and *The Profit System: The [Economics](#) of Capitalism*, co-authored with Francis Green in 1987.

In the 80s he came out as gay, and wrote a series of articles on the economics of Aids before leaving Kingston to lecture at the University of Massachusetts and then in Nicaragua. At the end of the decade he moved to the University of the Basque Country in Bilbao, working especially within its Institute for International Cooperation and Development Studies.

There he examined global economic inequality, writing on migration, hunger, public health and the measurement of world inequality – all issues tackled in his book *100 Ways of Seeing an Unequal World* (2001).

Beyond Bob's many professional accomplishments he sketched, played music and delighted his friends' children with clever limericks. He loved Wagner and while in Nicaragua hosted a weekly radio show devoted to opera.

He returned to the UK in 2015 due to illness, and died of complications from Parkinson's disease. He is survived by his sister, Mary, and his brother, Tim. Another sister, Susan, predeceased him.